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Bush: Get Off the Backs of CIA, FBI

Intelligence Hurt by Media, Ex-Director Says

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George Bush, former director of central intelligence, said here yesterday it's "time to get off the backs" of the CIA and FBI and strengthen the nation's intelligence and counter-intelligence activities.

"We continue to revel in disclosures from the distant past," Bush told the World Affairs Council of Pittsburgh.

"Some, who most jealously protect their own sources, show no restraint at all in endangering the sources both here and abroad that are vital to our legitimate national security needs."

Bush, a Texas banker and former head of the U.S. delegation to the United Nations, spoke at the council's 17th World Affairs Forum, attended by 400 persons at the William Penn Hotel.

He charged some news stories have hampered U.S. intelligence activities.

"Voices of moral outrage, who feel it is wrong to have any secrets in an open society," he said, "continue to hector and harass the CIA through sensational magazine articles, through freedom of information disclosures, through the publishing of names of people who help the CIA or FBI."

He told a news conference past intelligence abuses have been corrected through congressional and presidential actions.

But, Bush said, he's very concerned about the United States appearing weak, to both its allies and hostile nations. That's why this country needs more, not less, intelligence gathering, he said.

And intelligence means secrecy, even in an open society, Bush added.

He was a featured speaker at an all-day conference that explored "Soviet Dynamics," through political, economic

and military aspects.

Richard Pipes, director of the Russian Research Center at Harvard University, said he sees a relative economic weakness that inhibits Soviet imperialism.

"The final goal of Soviet imperialism," said Pipes, "is not direct mastery of the globe—a task which is clearly beyond its physical capacity—but global hegemony."

This ancient Greek term he defined as one who "enjoys a monopoly on violence within his imperial realm."

Colin S. Gray, staff member of the Hudson Institute, said Western military strength has been declining in relation to Soviet power.

"The Soviet Union," he said, "is putting together a total military structure that could well lead to Western military defeat should war break out in the 1980s."